

C1/b.7  
D1

1. (Twice Amended) A water based ink composition for a ballpoint pen which comprises a thickener which is associative and swells in an alkaline medium, said thickener comprising a polymer having a carboxyl group and a hydrophobic group, a pigment, a polar solvent comprising water and other water-miscible solvents and a pH controlling agent.

Please add the following new claim:

C2

--5. The water based ink composition of claim 1, wherein said thickener is present in the amount of 0.1 to 2.0% by weight based on the ink composition.--

#### REMARKS

Entry of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments put this application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is referred to M.P.E.P. §714.12, which states that "[a]ny amendment that will place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Further, the amendments herein do not require a further search, since the amendments merely clarify the previous claim limitations of the thickener and solvents. As a result, it is requested that the amendments be entered and considered.